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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/846,816	05/01/2001	Phani Kumar Bidarahalli	390086.94715	5877

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EXAMINER	
CHANG, ERIC	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2116	

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/846,816	BIDARAHALLI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric Chang	2116	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *23 July 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-10 and 12-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3-10 and 12-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 3-10, 12-20 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-10, 12-15, 17-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Windows95 Resource Kit" by Microsoft, in view of U.S. Patent 6,119,186 to Watts, et al., and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,502,123 to Gulick.

4. As to claim 1, Microsoft discloses a method for configuring a set of applications in a computer system, the method comprising the steps of: receiving system user identifying information [pages 482-483]; using the identifying information to determine the user's preferred applications, and loading said applications [page 504]. Microsoft teaches storing a user's preferred applications in a Custom Startup Folder, which are booted when the user starts a session. The contents of the Custom Startup Folder are based on the user profile, which is accessed when the user logs into the computer system, thereby entering user-identifying information. Microsoft teaches most of the limitations of the claim, but does not teach determining which preferred applications are already booted up, and booting the ones that are not already booted.

Watts teaches determining which of the preferred applications are already booted up, the already booted up preferred applications being a first subset and the other preferred applications being a second subset; and booting up the second subset of preferred applications [FIG. 9b and col. 12, lines 49-57]. Watts teaches that a user's preferred applications are launched when an environmental factor changes, such as when a new user uses the computer system [col. 7, lines 17-26], and applications that are already running are not launched.

At the time that the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to employ the application launching means as taught by Watts. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so to prevent duplicates of a preferred application from being launched.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the cited references because they are both directed to the problem of modifying the operation of a computer system when the user of the system changes. Moreover, the application launching means taught by Watts would improve the flexibility of Microsoft because it allowed preferred applications to not only be launched when the user changes, but also when other environmental factors change.

Microsoft and Watts teach the limitations of the claim, except for the requirement that non-preferred applications that are booted are identified and disabled.

Gulick teaches a system for controlling the applications that have been booted are running on a computer system [col. 7, lines 4-16]. Thus, Gulick teaches an application management system similar to that of Microsoft and Watts. Gulick further teaches a system

wherein a user identifies non-preferred applications that are booted, and disabling said non-preferred applications [col. 7, lines 17-29].

At the time that the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to employ non-preferred application disabling means as taught by Gulick. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so that only preferred applications are loaded.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the cited references because they are all directed to the problem of managing the applications that are booted and running on a computer system. Moreover, the non-preferred application disabling means taught by Gulick would improve the efficiency of Microsoft and Watts because it allowed system resources that would have been used by non-preferred applications to be conserved.

5. As to claim 3, Gulick discloses identifying non-preferred applications that are booted and disabling or turning off the non-preferred applications [col. 7, lines 17-29].

6. As to claim 4, Microsoft discloses using a database including user-identifying information correlated with preferred applications and correlating the identifying information with the preferred applications [pages 504-505]. Microsoft teaches the preferred applications are stored in a database and correlated to a user profile, which is used when the user logs into the computer system.

7. As to claim 5, Microsoft discloses providing at least one field for entering user identifying information on a display and, when information is provided via the field, retrieving the information therefrom [pages 482-483]. Microsoft teaches that a user logs into the operating system, and the profile associated with said user is loaded; it is well known in the art that the process of logging into a computer system comprises entering user identifying information.

8. As to claim 6, Watts discloses at least one critical application is critical to operation of at least one of the preferred applications and wherein the method further includes the steps of, for each preferred application, determining if there are any critical applications booting up all such critical applications [col. 12, lines 18-32]. Watts teaches that critical applications, such as *.dll used by preferred applications, are automatically launched when said preferred applications are launched. It would have further been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the process for launching the user preferred applications could likewise be applied to such critical applications, because the process is directed to efficiently booting applications.

9. As to claim 7, Watts discloses configuring the user preferred applications by providing an interface for receiving user information and preferences, receiving user preferences and related user information via the interface and storing the user preferred applications correlated with the user information for subsequent use [col. 15, lines 42-62]. Watts teaches a customizing menu in order to receive user preferences and related information. In addition, Microsoft teaches that user profile information is also stored for subsequent use [pages 482-483].

10. As to claim 9, Watts discloses modifying the booted applications as a function of detected operational status [col. 8, lines 5-13], and modifying the operation of booted applications [col. 8, lines 20-27]. Because the processor usage is a function of the operational status of the computer system, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to disable booted applications in response to a processor usage threshold.

11. As to claim 10, Microsoft discloses a processor running a program for configuring a set of applications in a computer system, the method comprising the steps of: receiving system user identifying information [pages 482-483]; using the identifying information to determine the user's preferred applications, and loading said applications [page 504].

Watts teaches determining which of the preferred applications are already booted up, the already booted up preferred applications being a first subset and the other preferred applications being a second subset; and booting up the second subset of preferred applications [FIG. 9b and col. 12, lines 49-57]. Watts teaches that a user's preferred applications are launched when an environmental factor changes, such as when a new user uses the computer system [col. 7, lines 17-26], and applications that are already running are not launched.

Gulick further teaches a program wherein a user identifies non-preferred applications that are booted, and disabling said non-preferred applications [col. 7, lines 17-29].

12. As to claim 12, Gulick discloses identifying non-preferred applications that are booted and disabling or turning off the non-preferred applications [col. 7, lines 17-29].

13. As to claim 13, Microsoft discloses using a database including user-identifying information correlated with preferred applications and correlating the identifying information with the preferred applications [pages 504-505]. Microsoft teaches the preferred applications are stored in a database and correlated to a user profile, which is used when the user logs into the computer system.

14. As to claim 14, Watts discloses at least one critical application is critical to operation of at least one of the preferred applications and wherein the method further includes the steps of, for each preferred application, determining if there are any critical applications booting up all such critical applications [col. 12, lines 18-32]. Watts teaches that critical applications, such as *.dll used by preferred applications, are automatically launched when said preferred applications are launched. It would have further been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the process for launching the user preferred applications could likewise be applied to such critical applications, because the process is directed to efficiently booting applications.

15. As to claim 15, Watts discloses configuring the user preferred applications by providing an interface for receiving user information and preferences, receiving user preferences and related user information via the interface and storing the user preferred applications correlated with the user information for subsequent use [col. 15, lines 42-62]. Watts teaches a customizing menu in order to receive user preferences and related information. In addition, Microsoft teaches that user profile information is also stored for subsequent use [pages 482-483].

16. As to claim 17, Watts discloses modifying the booted applications as a function of detected operational status [col. 8, lines 5-13], and modifying the operation of booted applications [col. 8, lines 20-27]. Because the processor usage is a function of the operational status of the computer system, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to disable booted applications in response to a processor usage threshold.

17. As to claim 18, Microsoft discloses a method for configuring a set of applications in a computer system, the method comprising the steps of: receiving system user identifying information [pages 482-483]; using the identifying information to determine the user's preferred applications; and loading said applications [page 504].

In addition, Watts teaches determining which of the preferred applications are already booted up, the already booted up preferred applications being a first subset and the other preferred applications being a second subset; and booting up the second subset of preferred applications [FIG. 9b and col. 12, lines 49-57]. Watts teaches modifying the configuration of the computer based on the optimal configuration for the user, including enabling user-preferred applications.

Furthermore, Gulick teaches identifying non-preferred applications that are booted, and disabling said non-preferred applications in order to conserve system resources that would have been used by said non-preferred applications [col. 7, lines 17-29].

18. As to claim 20, Microsoft discloses an apparatus comprising means for configuring a set of applications in a computer system, the method comprising the steps of: receiving system user

identifying information [pages 482-483]; using the identifying information to determine the user's preferred applications, and loading said applications [page 504].

Watts teaches determining which of the preferred applications are already booted up, the already booted up preferred applications being a first subset and the other preferred applications being a second subset; and booting up the second subset of preferred applications [FIG. 9b and col. 12, lines 49-57]. Watts teaches that a user's preferred applications are launched when an environmental factor changes, such as when a new user uses the computer system [col. 7, lines 17-26], and applications that are already running are not launched.

Gulick further teaches means wherein a user identifies non-preferred applications that are booted, and disabling said non-preferred applications [col. 7, lines 17-29].

19. Microsoft, Watts and Gulick disclose a method for configuring a set of applications, comprising receiving system user identifying information; using the identifying information to determine the user's preferred applications; determining which of the preferred applications are already booted up, the already booted up preferred applications being a first subset and the other preferred applications being a second subset; and booting up the second subset of preferred preferences, substantially as claimed. Because Microsoft, Watts and Gulick teach the method, Microsoft, Watts and Gulick teach an apparatus implementing said method.

20. Claims 8, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Windows95 Resource Kit" by Microsoft, in view of U.S. Patent 6,119,186 to Watts, et al., in

view of U.S. Patent 6,502,123 to Gulick, and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,202,121 to Walsh, et al.

21. As to claims 8 and 16, Microsoft, Watts and Gulick teach all of the limitations of the claim, but do not teach that the critical applications are added to a list of preferred applications.

Walsh teaches that loading a software application often involves loading additional critical applications [col. 3, lines 9-14]. Thus, Walsh teaches booting an application on a computer system similar to that of Microsoft, Watts and Gulick. Walsh further teaches a list of additional necessary application files that are critical to the operation of the software are stored in a list of files to be loaded when the software is launched [col. 3, lines 14-21].

At the time that the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to employ the critical application list as taught by Walsh. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so that the preferred applications would boot correctly because all of their related critical applications would also be identified and booted as well.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of the cited references because they are both directed to the problem of launching applications in a computer system. Moreover, the critical application list taught by Walsh would improve the efficiency of Microsoft, Watts and Gulick because it allowed the launching of an application to be accelerated [col. 3, lines 29-33].

22. As to claim 19, Microsoft discloses a method for configuring a set of applications in a computer system, the method comprising the steps of: receiving system user identifying information [pages 482-483]; storing, correlating and using the identifying information to determine the user's preferred applications; and loading said applications [page 504].

In addition, Watts discloses at least one critical application is critical to operation of at least one of the preferred applications and wherein the method further includes the steps of, for each preferred application, determining if there are any critical applications booting up all such critical applications [col. 12, lines 18-32].

Furthermore, Walsh teaches that the critical applications are added to a list of program files that should be launched when the preferred applications are booted [col. 3, lines 14-21].

Response to Arguments

23. Applicant's arguments, filed July 23, 2004, with respect to the rejection(s)of claim(s) 1, 3-10, 12-20 under 35 USC 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of U.S. Patent 6,502,123 to Gulick.

Conclusion

24. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Chang whose telephone number is (703) 305-4612. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (703) 308-1159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

October 7, 2004
ec

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11-1-04